



YWCA Greater Pittsburgh Selling Downtown Building *Property sale is part of nonprofit's strategic focus on race and gender equity through collaborations*

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ginny Giles, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh
(814) 449-8490, ggiles@ywcapgh.org

PITTSBURGH (June 16, 2020) – As YWCA Greater Pittsburgh begins its next chapter in the organization's history as a changemaker focusing on race and gender equity, it announced plans to sell its Downtown headquarters building.

"The sale of our Downtown building is one of the specific actions we are taking toward achieving our goal of creating a community that will help eliminate racism and empower women," said Angela Reynolds, Ph.D., CEO of YWCA Greater Pittsburgh. "After considerable assessment of the physical and staffing requirements needed to carry out our mission, our Board of Directors has decided to sell our Wood Street property." YWCA's Early Child Development and Education facility in Homewood-Brushton will continue to operate, preparing infants through five-year-olds to succeed in the years ahead.

Jones Lange LaSalle Americas, Inc. (JLL) has been engaged to market the 88,000-square-foot building that opened in 1962. The property, located at 305 Wood Street, is now officially on the market. "The location of the property provides unparalleled access in the city's central business district to all the amenities that Greater Downtown offers," said Mark Popovich, Senior Managing Director of JLL. "In addition, it is immediately accessible from all of the major highways in the region." The property sits within the "GT-A" zoning, which is a classification that allows for a number of uses including multifamily, office, hotel, and more.

The sale of the building comes at a time when YWCA Greater Pittsburgh is beginning a new organization-wide pivot that returns the legacy organization to its core mission. Moving forward, Reynolds said, "We will be focusing our lens on race and gender equity and working collaboratively with strategic partners to truly make a difference in peoples' lives."

The plan for the building sale was in place prior to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic. "Our staff is currently occupying only a small fraction of the seven-story (four stories above and three below ground) building. As a result, we made a prudent decision to sell the property," said

Reynolds. “The proceeds of the sale will enable us to move forward without the expense of an asset we do not fully occupy and that requires significant investment.”

Prior to Coronavirus shutdown, which forced YWCA to work remotely, only 22 people were working at the Downtown office. At its height, approximately 130 people worked in the building. “We hope to be able to stay in our headquarters office for at least a year until we can determine the space requirements necessary to fully implement our vision,” said Reynolds. JLL will also help YWCA find new suitable space for its headquarters.

The building houses two retail tenants—both located on the first floor of the property, Mandarin Gourmet and Point Park University.

“As we start on our next chapter on the current and future needs of our community, we are focused on remaining mission driven,” said Melanie Gefert-Azur, President of YWCA’s Board who recently served as interim CEO. “This action is part of our strategic plan. Through partnerships and programs, we will be working toward a community that advances education, opportunity, and equity regardless of gender and race.”

ABOUT THE BUILDING

The groundbreaking ceremony for what was then called YWCA Central Services Building took place on Dec. 7, 1960 and was attended by Pennsylvania Governor David Lawrence. Historic news reports say the ceremony was “opened by Mrs. Robert D. Campbell, president of the Pittsburgh YWCA.” The building formally opened to the public on Oct. 30, 1962.

For more information on YWCA Greater Pittsburgh and its programs, visit <https://www.ywcapgh.org>.

See photo below.

###



Caption: As YWCA Greater Pittsburgh begins its next chapter in the organization's history as a changemaker focusing on race and gender equity, it announced plans to sell its Downtown headquarters building. Jones Lange LaSalle Americas, Inc. (JLL) has been engaged to market the 88,000-square-foot building that opened in 1962.